

Response

The claims were amended in accordance with the amendments above. The amendments to the claims are being made to clarify the invention and to focus the claims on those aspects of the invention which are a commercial priority to the Applicant. All of the amendments are fully supported by the specification, claims, and figures as originally filed. No new matter is believed or intended to be involved.

Applicant appreciates the courtesies extended during the telephonic interview with the Examiner on 03/10/2005. Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication during the interview that the present arguments would overcome the rejections in the pending Office Action. The Applicant acknowledges that the Examiner reserved the right to supplement his search.

In the Office Action dated 12/28/2004, Claims 1-4 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by L'Host Pierre (French Reference No. 2,691,044). It was agreed in the interview that, in light of the present arguments, claims 1 and 19 appeared to be patentable over L'Host Pierre.

With respect to claim 1, it was noted that the claim recites the limitation that the bracket is "rigidly attached to the bobbin." By contrast, as was noted in the interview, the disclosure of L'Host Pierre relates to a bobbin that is not rigidly attached to a bracket. With reference to Figure 1 in L'Host Pierre, item number 2 indicates an axle member protruding from another member (indicated by item number 1). The bobbin member (indicated by item number 3) is non-rigidly disposed about this axle member. The non-rigidity of the attachment between the bobbin and the member indicated by item number 1 in L'Host Pierre is further evidenced in Figure 7, which shows rotation of the bobbin (relative to the member indicated by item number 1) by the arrow "H." Such rotation would not be able to occur with a bracket being rigidly attached to the bobbin, as recited in claim 1. Accordingly, claim 1 is patentable over L'Host Pierre.

With respect to claim 19, it was noted that the claim recites the limitation that "the fishing reel is substantially free of moving parts." The meaning of this phrase is aptly

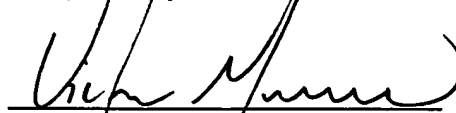
described in the present specification beginning from page 9, line 24, to page 10, line 2. In contrast to claim 19, as was noted in the interview, the fishing reel of L'Host Pierre includes moving parts which are described above with respect to claim 1. Accordingly, claim 19 is patentable over L'Host Pierre.

Claims 15-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Thompson (U.S. Patent No. 3,312,417). Claim 15 has been amended to include the limitation that "the fishing reel is substantially free of moving parts," which is a patentably distinct limitation found in claim 19, discussed above. Applicant notes that the reel taught by Thompson includes several moving parts, including but not limited to the reel (indicated by item number 10) that rotates about the spindle (indicated by item number 14). Accordingly, amended claim 15 is patentable over Thompson.

To the extent that the amendments constitute a narrowing of the claims, such narrowing of the claims should not be construed as an admission as to the merits of the prior rejections. Indeed, Applicant traverses the rejections and preserves all rights and arguments. Applicant further notes that the dependent claims include additional limitations not taught or suggested in the art of record, thus forming independent basis for novelty and non-obviousness.

Based on the foregoing, all pending claims are in a condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and an early notice of allowance.

Respectfully Submitted,



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Vicente Munoz